Novacon 42

9-11 November 2012

Guest of Honour

Jaine Fenn

READ-ME!

Programme

	Friday		Saturday		Sunday
		10.30	ROAD TO THE STARS	10.30	ALAN TURING
		12.00	THE REAL SCIENCE BEHIND PARALLEL UNIVERSES	12.00	ART AUCTION
		13.30	ALL IN IT TOGETHER	13.30	IN HER IMAGE
		15.00	GUEST OF HONOUR	15.00	SHORT FICTION
		16.30	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL NOVACON 42	17.00	AWARDS CEREMONY
19.00	OPENING CEREMONY	18.00	SF AND FANTASY? IT'S ALL FANTASY?	19.00	BEER TASTING AND CONVENTION MEAL
19.30	THANK FANDOM IT'S FRIDAY!	19.30	INTERNATIONAL FANS OF MYSTERY		
21.00	BOOK LAUNCH PARTY.	21.00	CHEMISTS, BREWERS AND BEER-DOCTORS		
22.30	A FALSE SENSE OF INSECURITY	22.30	THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED, NO HOLDS BARRED, UNDIGNIFIED, ALCOHOL-SODDEN NOVACON GAME SHOW		

The Programme - in detail

FRIDAY NIGHT

7.00 pm OPENING CEREMONY.
Some wackiness and possibly even zaniness. But not too much. Meet the Committee. Meet Jaine. Useful information about the rest of weekend will be given.

7.30 pm THANK FANDOM IT'S FRIDAY!
Steve Green (who else?) kicks off the convention with our GoH Jaine Fenn and some surprise guests, buses and lawyers permitting

9.00 pm BOOK LAUNCH PARTY.
Jaine has new work out and we would like to celebrate our guest's success and socialise on the first night of the convention.

10.30 pm A FALSE SENSE OF INSECURITY.
A discussion about conspiracy and paranoia in science fiction *and* fandom. Why are we so much more attracted to the idea of conspiracy then cock-up? Do aliens really walk among us? Are *you* a SMOF?
David Hicks, John Meaney, Jacey Bedford, Jim Mowatt.

SATURDAY

10.30am ROAD TO THE STARS (1957)
Made by Russian (then Soviet) producer & special effects wizard Pavel Klushantsev, it starts in documentary style with the life of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, and goes on to dramatise early rocket experiments including Sputnik (1957, remember). The film ends with an imaginative section showing man expanding into space, building space stations and going on to the Moon. Never available in English but Dave Hardy has obtained a German print, replacing the soundtrack with captions and specially written music by The Light Dreams (Alex Storer, who will be at his first Novacon!).

12.00 noon THE REAL SCIENCE BEHIND PARALLEL UNIVERSES.
Dr Tony Padilla from the Centre for Astronomy and Particle Physics at Nottingham University.

1.30pm ALL IN IT TOGETHER
Everyone is talking about austerity at the moment. SF has a tendency to bright wealthy futures where worrying about paying the mortgage or having enough to eat at the end of the month is just not there. Of course there is the alternative SF meme of hell on earth dystopias. We ask where the austerity is in SF and whether there is any fictional work out there that helps us visualise a better future life in a world of limits (not a popular SF concept at all)?
Farah Mendlesohn, Mike Scott, Caroline Mullan, Phil Nanson.

3.00pm GUEST OF HONOUR INTERVIEW
Our Guest of Honour, Jaine Fenn interviewed by Pauline Morgan.

4.30pm NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL NOVACON 42
Possibly the best Novacon 42 item in the world. Ever! Music, laughter, Baraoke!
Brought to you by Ian Sorensen, Yvonne Rowse and a cast of tens (that's you, the audience). Questions will be answered, answers will be questioned, prizes will be awarded.

6.00pm SF AND FANTASY? IT'S ALL FANTASY?
There are those that say that fantasy is rubbish and only SF is worth reading. There are those who say that SF is stupid, macho and sterile but fantasy gives us a glimpse into our souls. We wonder why some people are so partisan. We ask if it is possible to bring Tony Berry to admit that there is some fiction that is OK even if it doesn't have rockets in it.
Tony Berry, Claire Brialey, Edward James, Doug Spencer, Yvonne Rowse

7.30pm INTERNATIONAL FANS OF MYSTERY
GUFF is running, and nominations for TAFF open on the Friday of Novacon. What's the attraction of travelling to conventions on another continent? Fans who have been (or hope to be) transformed into more worthwhile human beings by the experience debate the coming fan fund races and why it's important to support them.
John Coxon, James Shields, Jim Mowatt, Nigel Rowe

9.00pm CHEMISTS, BREWERS AND BEER-DOCTORS
Dr James Sumner from Manchester University asks: How do you know what's in your beer? Public fears and chemists' claims about adulteration and contamination in the nineteenth century. Can the people who detect poisons be trusted not to have a sideline in supplying them?

10.30pm THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED, NO HOLDS BARRED, UNDIGNIFIED, ALCOHOL-SODDEN NOVACON GAME SHOW.
Imagine Strictly Come Dancing presented by Jeremy Paxman. On ice. And a fish in your ear might come in handy too.

SUNDAY

10.30 am ALAN TURING.
2012 is the Turing Centenary and throughout the world events have celebrated his achievements. Dr James Sumner returns to the stage to talk about the life and work of Alan Turing.

12.00 noon ART AUCTION
Forget gold, the real way to secure your fortune is science fiction art. Plus it looks good on the walls. If you're enjoyed the work in the Art Show, why not support the artists by buying some of their work?

1.30 pm IN HER IMAGE
How much control do extent authors have over the covers of their books? Are female authors of genre books guided to 'feminine' book covers and genre definitions? Do male authors have more choice?
Theresa Derwin, Janet Edwards, Rog Peyton, Dave Hardy

3.00 pm SHORT FICTION
As novels get bigger and bigger (Peter Hamilton's SF detective novel, Great North Road is a whopping 1100 pages) we ask is there still a place for short fiction. Do we still read it? Where do we get it from? Why should we search it out? What's your favourite short story?
Jaine Fenn, Mark Plummer, Julian Headlong, Christina Lake, Yvonne Rowse

5.00 pm AWARDS CEREMONY
Not a 'closing' ceremony because Novacon *never closes*. Come and hear about the masterful plans for next year that are already being hatched. Come and say thank you to our Guest of Honour, Jaine Fenn, and all the people who made the convention run. Come and see the best run raffle in fandom.

7.00 pm BEER TASTING AND CONVENTION MEAL
Remember to buy your tickets during the weekend.

Off-piste items - there will be several impromptu items taking place in the downstairs bar over the weekend. Watch out for notices by the registration desk.

Dave Lally's Programme
In addition to the highlights above, the Dave Lally Programme will run from 16.00 on Friday until Sunday afternoon in the Dudley Room (straight down the corridor from Hotel reception, first syndicate room on your left after the stairs); see the flip chart outside for details of what Dave will have on offer.

Sunday Evening Beer Tasting and Food
We continue the tradition of having a winding-down event in the shape of the famous beer-tasting and meal. We will be providing some beer, but rely on you to bring the more interesting stuff. A minimum of 3 bottles will get you a place at the bar, or buy a badge from registration for £5. The beer tasting starts at 19.00 in the Churchill Suite. At 20.00 the food will be served, this year with a Thai theme as chosen by our GoH. The food is by ticket only. These are on sale from registration and cost £11.50. YOU MUST BUY YOUR FOOD TICKET BY 11.00 SUNDAY MORNING.
A selection of soft drinks will be available free to everyone.

Dealers' Room

This is in the Churchill Suite, which is next to the main bar. It will be open from 16.00 - 18.30 Friday, 10.00 - 14.45 and 16.15 - 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please (unless you're a dealer!)

Meeting Rooms

All the small meeting rooms are located together downstairs. These will house the Artshow, Dave Lally's programme, secure ops store and a room for smaller programme items. There is lift access to these rooms from hotel reception.

Art Show

This is in Meeting Room 2. It is open from 10.00 - 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 11.30 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please.

Novacon Registration

This is in the business office in the main foyer. It will be open:

Friday:	16.00 - 18.30 and 19.30 - 22.00 for N42 registrations only
Saturday:	10.00 - 14.30 and 16.30 - 18.00 for all Novacon business
Sunday:	10.00 - 16.00 for all Novacon business

Operations

We'll probably be hanging out around the business centre in main reception, but there will be a secure ops store in meeting room 6 which will be used to keep any books you have for the auction, Sunday evening beer, coats and bags (at the owner's risk) and various other stuff. If you want to leave anything here, speak to the convention Duty Manager (who will be wearing a subtle red waistcoat). If you have volunteered to be a GOPHER, come and find any committee member and we'll sort you out. There are rewards!

Leisure Facilities

We have full use of the leisure club which has a pool, sauna and gym. Access for disabled guests is through the main club entrance outside, reached from the bar. The leisure club is privately-run.
Please note: the pool runs some adults-only swim sessions, check times with hotel reception.

Badges

The hotel bar and leisure club are open to the public and so there may be non-convention people in the hotel. Please wear your badge at all times, or you will be refused entry to the artshow and dealers' room, as well as being turned away from the con food. This is also a matter of security - we want to know who's who! Don't make us unleash the attack-gerbils.

DIRE WARNINGS

The Park Inn is in the business of selling accommodation, food and drink. Neither the hotel nor the Novacon committee approve of members crashing in rooms or bringing in their own supplies, so don't do it.

Left Luggage

This can be left in the secure Ops store downstairs. Find a committee member to let you in.

RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be running a raffle throughout the convention, with proceeds going to the RNIB Talking Books for the Blind. Someone will wave a book of tickets at you at some point.

Food and Drink

INSIDE

All convention food will be served in the main bar area on the ground floor. As last year the food orders will be taken over the bar and cooked to order. This will mean you wait a bit longer but it's worth it! It may be obvious, but please remain in the bar until you've got your food.

The DOWNSTAIRS BAR will be open as a bar again this year, so please make use of it. Opening times for the sale of drinks are 7pm - 12 midnight Friday and Saturday only, but it will be available as lounge space at other times. It has direct lift access from reception.

Friday:	Dinner 18.30 - 22.00. Selection of hot and cold food, such as baguettes (£2.50), pizza (£6.00), burger and chips (£6.50), baked potato (£5.50), vegetarian options, also new things like paninis.
	Friday evening ONLY in the restaurant: fixed-price carvery with meat or vegetarian options. £16.95 for 3 courses. Late night: bacon/sausage/chip butties £2.50
Saturday:	Breakfast 7.30 - 10.30 served in the restaurant. Lunch: 12.30 - 14.30. Selection of hot and cold food as above
	Dinner: 18.00 - 22.00
	Late night: Butties
Sunday:	Breakfast 7.30 - 10.30
	Lunch: 12.30 - 14.30
	Late night: Butties

The regular bar menu will also be available throughout the weekend. If you want a sit-down meal in the restaurant using the regular hotel menu, can you please reserve a table for Saturday evening as it can get busy.

Snacks such as crisps, nuts, chocolate and baguettes (£2.50) will be available from the bar 10.00 - 23.00.

The Main Bar is the Savoy on the ground floor and is open from 10.00 until we're all tired.

The Downstairs Bar is available for use as lounge area and will also be selling drinks, though not for the extended hours upstairs. You can take food down there once you've got it from the main bar.

OUTSIDE

If you venture outside the hotel (which you won't of course, because the convention is just too much fun) there is pretty well all you could need nearby. The big pub over the road is an illusion. So is the food and real ale it serves. Honest. Keep on that side of the road and there is a bank with a cashpoint, various shops, newsagent and supermarket with basic medicines. If you need an actual pharmacy there is a Boots about half a mile away - ask reception.

If you want to do the tourist bit then apparently there's a local legend about some bloke in green tights; sounds dodgy to me. Besides that there is the famous Olde Trip To Jerusalem Inn, which is the oldest boozer in England, dating back to 1189AD. Yes it is and I don't care what anyone else says. Been there many times, but not since they refurbished it and opened up more long-buried parts. Worth a visit as it's partially built into the cliffs beneath the castle, but it is very popular and can get crowded.

Restaurants

Stand in front of the mirror and repeat: "I will stay in the con, I will stay in the con, I will stay...."

There are, of course, plenty of restaurants in Nottingham but gone are the days when we would painstakingly list a load. Now you all have access to the interweb and can look at a dozen sites rating eateries, so we'll leave it to you to do the work. Or you could just go downtown and wander; I'm sure you'll find somewhere!